

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for selectively placing a distress call in response to activity of an implanted medical device, comprising:
 - receiving a wireless signal from the implanted medical device; and
 - transmitting the distress call to a remote location in response to receiving the wireless signal.
 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless signal is indicative of a medical emergency experienced by a human being wearing the implanted medical device.
 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless signal is received from the implanted medical device only when the implanted medical device determines that a person wearing the implanted medical device is experiencing an emergency condition.
 4. The method of claim 1, prior to transmitting, determining that the wireless signal is indicative of a medical emergency being experienced by a human being wearing the implanted medical device.
 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless signal and distress call contain vital data pertaining to an organ being monitored by the implanted medical device.
 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the distress call contains location information indicating a location of a device initiating the distress call.
 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the distress call contains at least one of a serial number for the implanted medical device, a model number for the implanted medical device, and operational data for the implanted medical device.
 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the implanted medical device comprises one of a pacemaker, an implantable cardioverter defibrillator and a combination thereof.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the implanted medical device is configured to monitor a human organ.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the distress call is transmitted via a wireless telephone network.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the implanted medical device comprises a transmitter configured to transmit the wireless signal and a heart regulating device.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the heart regulating device comprises one of a pacemaker, an implantable cardioverter defibrillator and a combination thereof.

13. A system for selectively placing a distress call, comprising:
a wireless external receiver configured to receive a wireless signal from an implanted medical device; and
an external communications device connected to the wireless external receiver and configured to transmit a distress call to a remote location in response to receiving input from the wireless external receiver.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the distress call contains location information indicating a location of the external communications device.

15. The system of claim 13, further comprising a locator device configured to provide location information to the external communications device, wherein the location information is included in the distress call.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the wireless signal and distress call contain vital data pertaining to an organ being monitored by the implanted medical device.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the wireless signal is indicative of a medical emergency experienced by a human being wearing the implanted medical device.

18. The system of claim 13, wherein the implanted medical device comprises one of a pacemaker, an implantable cardioverter defibrillator and a combination thereof.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein the implanted medical device is configured to monitor a human organ.

20. The system of claim 13, wherein the distress call is transmitted via a wireless telephone network.

21. The system of claim 13, wherein the implanted medical device comprises a transmitter configured to transmit the wireless signal and a heart regulating device.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the heart regulating device comprises one of a pacemaker, an implantable cardioverter defibrillator and a combination thereof.

23. The system of claim 13, wherein the external communications device is configured to determine, prior to transmitting the distress call, that the wireless signal is indicative of a medical emergency being experienced by a human being wearing the implanted medical device.

24. The system of claim 13, wherein the wireless signal is received from the implanted medical device only when the implanted medical device determines that a person wearing the implanted medical device is experiencing an emergency condition.

25. An implantable medical device, comprising:
a monitoring device; and
a wireless transmitter in communication with the monitoring device and configured to selectively transmit a wireless distress signal in response to predetermined activity of the monitoring device.

26. The implantable medical device of claim 25, wherein the wireless transmitter is configured to transmit the wireless distress signal to an external system configured to place a distress call to a remote location.

27. The implantable medical device of claim 25, wherein the monitoring device comprises an organ monitoring device configured to monitor activity of an organ.

28. The implantable medical device of claim 27, wherein the wireless transmitter is activated by the organ monitoring device to transmit the wireless distress signal only when the organ monitoring device determines that detected organ activity indicates the organ is experiencing an emergency condition.

29. The implantable medical device of claim 25, wherein monitoring device comprises one of a pacemaker, an implantable cardioverter defibrillator and a combination thereof.

30. The implantable medical device of claim 25, wherein the monitoring device comprises a defibrillator and wherein the wireless transmitter is activated by the monitoring device to transmit the wireless distress signal only when the defibrillator has been activated to stimulate an organ.

31. The implantable medical device of claim 25, wherein the wireless transmitter is configured to transmit the wireless distress signal to an external system, and wherein the external system is configured to place a distress call to a remote location in response to the wireless distress signal.

32. The implantable medical device of claim 31, wherein the external system is a portable unit configured for communication with the wireless transmitter while in close proximity thereto.

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33. The implantable medical device of claim 31, wherein the external system comprises a locator device configured to determine a location of the external system.

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